信長・秀吉・家康
柳生十兵衛死す
四
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漫画：石川賢

YAGYU JUBEI DIES (IV)
NOBUNAGA, HIDEYOSHI, IEYASU

CONTENTS:
PART THE ELEVENTH:
NOBUNAGA, HIDEYOSHI, IEYASU

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NOBUNAGA, HIDEYOSHI, IEYASU

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IEMITSU AND SASAKI KOJIRO! THEY'VE JUMPED TO THIS ERA AS WELL!

LORD IEMITSU.

YESSS
IT APPEARS WE'VE FINALLY FOUND HIM. FOUND JUBEI
YAGYU JUBEI! WHEREVER YOU HIDE, WHATEVER ERA YOU LEAP TO,
JUBEI
YOUR LIFE
BELONGS ONLY TO ME, TOKUGAWA IEMITSU!

SLAUGHTER THE ENTIRE VILLAGE!
NO HOLDING BACK!
I'LL SEND HIM TO HELL WITH MY OWN HANDS!
I'LL BE THE ONE TO TAKE HIS LIFE!
YES, LORD
LEAVE ONLY JUBEI ALIVE
GOOOO!
OH, NO... THIS IS BAD!

SOMEONE IS COMING ALONG THE EASTERN RAVINE!
PLEASE WAIT!
WHO IS IT?
GIVE ME THAT!
NO!
LORD NOBUNAGA!
GRR!
THERE IS NO DOUBT!
NOBUNAGA?
ODA NOBUNAGA!?

WE CAN DO NOTHING HERE TILL THEY LEAVE!
RETREAT!
WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS'S BAD!
!?
GET AWAY FROM HERE AS FAST AS YOU CAN!
DON'T EVEN LISTEN TO THEM!

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
!?
THE REST OF YOU WAIT HERE!
VERY WELL LORD KAGEMARO AND I WILL GO ON AHEAD
LORD!
NOTHING
WHAT IS IT, KAGEMARO?
BUT MY LORD! IF THE WORST SHOULD HAPPEN—
WE CAN BEFRIEND THEM, THERE MAY BE A FUTURE EVEN FOR A SMALL CLAN LIKE ODA
IF, RATHER THAN MAKING ENEMIES OF THEM,
YOUR BEING HERE AT ALL IS DANGEROUS!
WE'RE DEALING WITH BEASTS WHO ARE NO FRIENDS TO THE ODA!
BEASTS BARE THEIR FANGS WHEN FACED WITH A CROWD
DO NOT FRET

I'D RATHER DIE THAN LIVE WAITING ON THE WHIMS OF OTHERS!
I WON'T BE MUCH OF A DAIMYO IF I CANNOT RULE...
LORD!
YOU MAY FALL IN WITH IMAGAWA, OR EVEN TAKEDA.
IF I DO, YOU MAY DO AS YOU SEE FIT.
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR YOU!! GO HOME!
HALT RIGHT THERE!
NOBUNAGA!?
THIS IS LORD ODA NOBUNAGA OF OWARI
HE WISHES TO SEE LORD JUBEI

HE SAID HE WAS ODA NOBUNAGA OF OWARI?
YOWCH!
THERE'S NO WAY!
WOW...IT REALLY IS NOBUNAGA!
I'VE SEEN HIM ONCE BEFORE!

IT LOOKS LIKE AN ARMY WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME ATTACKING OVER THIS TERRAIN
QUITE A NICE PLACE YOU HAVE HERE
PLANNING TO INVADE, ARE YOU...?
IT'S FULL OF HOLES A CLEVER SPY COULD SLIP THROUGH
BUT YOUR TROOPS ARE STILL JUST FARMERS
IT WOULD BE QUITE THE POOR EXPERIENCE FOR YOU IF I DID...

HE DIDN'T EVEN FEAR THE IMPERIAL FAMILY!
HE BROKE IMAGAWA AT OKEHAZAMA...
ANNIHILATED TAKEDA AT NAGASHINO
ATTACKED HONGAN-JI AND BURNED AT HIEI...
BAST-TARD!
HUH?
SO THAT'S ODA NOBUNAGA, THE MAN WHO UNIFIES THE COUNTRY
ALL THE FARMERS HERE WERE DRIVEN FROM THEIR LANDS AND LOST THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR WARS
SLAY ME BEFORE YOU'RE INVADED?
NOW, WHAT WILL YOU DO?

HOMES ARE BURNED, FAMILIES ARE MURDERED, AND THE WEAK ARE DRIVEN FROM THEIR LANDS!
LISTEN UP. THAT'S WHAT WAR IS!
WELL? YOU COULD KILL ME NOW!
RRR RR!
AND WHY WARS COME TO PASS!
THINK ABOUT HOW YOU CAN END WAR
I, ODA NOBUNAGA, WILL CONQUER IT ALL! IT'S THE ONLY WAY!
UNITING THE WHOLE COUNTRY UNDER ONE RULE!
WARS HAPPEN BECAUSE THE PEOPLE AT THE TOP ARE FOOLS!
THERE IS ONLY ONE SINGLE WAY TO END ALL WARFARE!

BUT,
IF YOU SUBJUGATE IT WITH FORCE, NEW ENEMIES WILL ARISE ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
YOUR IDEA OF UNIFYING THE COUNTRY ISN'T EXACTLY WRONG.
JUBEI?
WELL? AM I INCORRECT
SO IT SHOULD BE SOMEONE LIKE YOU, THEN?
I SEE.
HOW VERY LIKE YOU.
WHAT IT MEANS TO UNIFY THE COUNTRY... ?
ISN'T SLAUGHTERING ALL YOUR ENEMIES
HEHE! THAT TOO, IS FATE!
BUT NONE OF IT MEANS A THING IF YOU DIE HERE
I DON'T WANT TO SHOW THEM ANY BLOOD
THERE ARE A LOT OF KIDS OUT HERE
WHERE ARE WE GOING??
WELL, THEN, THIS WAY.

WAHAHAHA! THIS FEELS... JUST SO GREAT!
I THOUGHT I WAS BOUND FOR HELL!
BUT THIS? THIS IS PARADISE!

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE VALLEY, LORD NOBUNAGA?
I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING THE QUESTIONS
WHO ARE YOU?
SO, JUBEI.
TO MAKE YOU MY ALLY... RATHER THAN MY ENEMY!
I JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE MORE... ECONOMICAL
YOU DEMONSTRATED YOUR POWER FOR ME EARLIER
I'LL GRANT EVERY WISH YOU MAY HAVE, JUBEI!
WHEN I UNITE THIS LAND
ECONOMICAL, IS IT?
HOW ABOUT IT? BECOME MY VASSAL!
BUT THE "JU" IN MY NAME? IT'S WRITTEN AS "TEN."
IT SEEMS I'VE QUICKLY GAINED RENOWN AS "JUBEI THE WILD BEAST," HUH?

I JUST CAN'T STAND THE SMALL STUFF!
WA HA HA!
YOU'RE EXACTLY WHO YOU APPEAR TO BE, AND YOU GET RIGHT INTO PEOPLE'S FEELINGS
HEH
IT SEEMS YOU'VE COME TO UNDERSTAND ME JUST A BIT
YOU'LL UNITE THIS COUNTRY EVEN WITHOUT MY HELP
HM!?

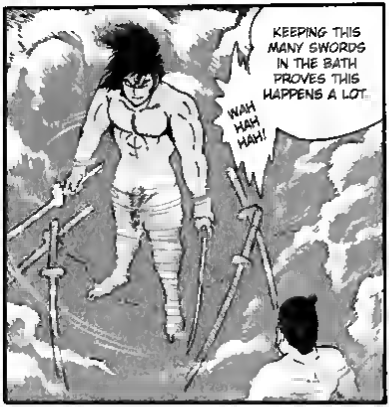
WHAT?
I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU
IF YOU'LL LISTEN TO ME,
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE I CAME TO THIS LAND,
BUT I HAVEN'T MANAGED TO SEE HIM YET
THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO MEET.
TN: IEYASU'S CHILDHOOD NAME
TAKECHIYO !?
SIR MATSUDAIRA MOTOYASU
OHO AND WHO MIGHT THAT BE?

I WANT TO KNOW WHERE IN IMAGAWA MOTOYASU IS,
AND WHAT HE'S BEEN DOING FOR THE LAST FEW YEARS
I WANT INFORM-ATION
AND WE ARE NOT ON THE BEST OF TERMS WITH THEM.
HE'S A HOSTAGE OF THE IMAGAWA.
NOT POSS-IBLE
FROM LORD UMANAMI TO YOU BOTH
UMM.
HMM
HOW CONSIDERATE OF HIM!

GYAAAAH!

MOST LIKELY AN IMAGWA OR TAKEDA SPY

NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE
WHO WAS SHE?

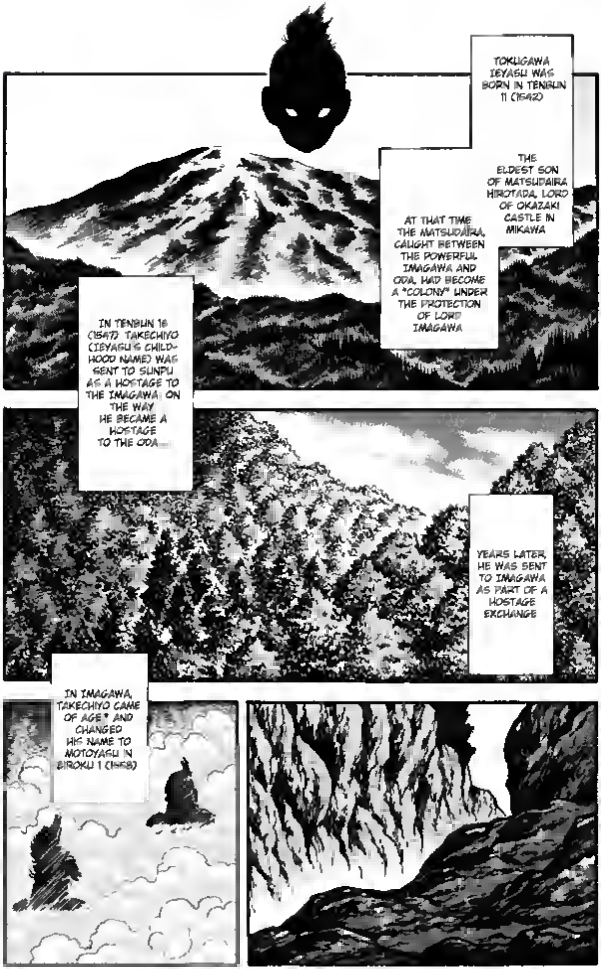

KEEPING THIS MANY SWORDS IN THE BATH PROVES THIS HAPPENS A LOT.
WAH HAH HAH!

SHE MUST HAVE BEEN AFTER YOU, LORD NOBU-NAGA

JUBEI.
SHE WAS AFTER YOU.

KAGE-MARO, WITH-DRAW!
JUBEI !!!
HOW ABOUT WE MAKE A DEAL...?

A DEAL?
YOU WANT TO MEET MATSUDAIRA TAKECHIYO, RIGHT?


TOKUGAWA IEYASU WAS BORN IN TENBUN 11 (1542)
THE ELDEST SON OF MATSUDAIRA HIROTADA, LORD OF OKAZAKI CASTLE IN MIKAWA
AT THAT TIME THE MATSUDAIRA, CAUGHT BETWEEN THE POWERFUL IMAGAWA AND ODA, HAD BECOME A "COLONY" UNDER THE PROTECTION OF LORD IMAGAWA
IN TENBUN 18 (1549) TAKECHIYO (IEYASU'S CHILDHOOD NAME) WAS SENT TO SUNPU AS A HOSTAGE TO THE IMAGAWA. ON THE WAY HE BECAME A HOSTAGE TO THE ODA
YEARS LATER, HE WAS SENT TO IMAGAWA AS PART OF A HOSTAGE EXCHANGE
IN IMAGAWA, TAKECHIYO CAME OF AGE* AND CHANGED HIS NAME TO MOTOYASU (1558)

*IN KOUJI 1 (1555) AT THIS TIME HE CALLED HIMSELF MATSUDAIRA JIROUSABURO-MOTONOBU

IF YOU WANT MORE, I'LL GIVE YOU HALF OF THIS PROVINCE!
IF WE DEFEAT IMAGAWA, I CAN ARRANGE FOR YOU TO MEET WITH TAKECHIYO!
LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH, JUBEI!